



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

be general agreement, and that few will fail to applaud the attitude taken and the method of attack.

Writing in an easy, polished style, Miss Repplier considers many of the questions most discussed to-day. Here are a few of the titles: *The Cost of Modern Sentiment*, *Christianity and the War*, *The Repeal of Reticence*, *The Modern Immigrant*, *Americanism*; and in each case the rowing is up-stream, counter to the current of popular opinion. In one essay particularly, perhaps, many will rejoice and chuckle at the body-blows dealt to the quackery, so prevalent nowadays, about the "Schools of To-morrow." While candidly accepting many of the results of modern educational philosophy, she unsparingly ridicules the attempts, so often made by utterly incompetent teachers, to divorce interest from effort, learning by doing from learning by thinking, and in general the production of pupils who know a great deal about many subjects but who are not masters of a single one.

But whatever one's intellectual habits, the reading of such stimulating essays cannot fail to awaken thought, and thought when once aroused and given sufficient scope leads to mental breadth and poise—the guide-posts to the dwelling of culture.

W. S. RUSK.

---

ATLANTIC CLASSICS. Boston: The Atlantic Monthly Company.

Among the sixteen contributors to this volume there are a few who have won a high place in contemporary American literature,—such as Agnes Repplier, Margaret Sherwood, Dallas Lore Sharp, Walter Prichard Eaton,—but as a whole the essays exhibit a lack of vigorous and interesting personality, of high seriousness, and of grace of style. Miss Sherwood, in her essay "The Other Side," complains that nowadays we are "too insistently contemporaneous," and that we are "more and more breaking with the past." And Walter Prichard Eaton in his "A Confession in Prose" laments the lack of style in our magazine articles of to-day. Our cheaper magazines, he declares, are "almost blatant in their self-puffery" and "none the less cravenly submissive to what they deem popular demand." "The 'triumphantly intricate' sentence celebrated by Walter Pater would

give many a modern editor a shiver of terror. He would visualize it mowing down the circulation of the magazine like a machine gun." In conclusion Mr. Eaton makes a plea for "a more liberal choice of graver subjects and a more extensive employment of the essay form." From these two excellent essays—by Miss Sherwood and Mr. Eaton—we may take the text of our criticism of this volume of *Atlantic Classics*. As a whole the essays are "too insistently contemporaneous," for though one of them—Owen Wister's *Visit to Chenonceaux*—carries us out of the present, even here the writer, in characteristic American fashion, seems more concerned with describing his attempt to outwit an old concierge than with reproducing the historic and poetic atmosphere of the *beau pays de Touraine*. The experience of Stevenson,—“out of my country and myself I go,”—seems foreign to these Atlantic essayists, who deal in such subjects as : college life of the present, intensive living, the provincial American, the streets of New York, men in contemporary literature, the fashion of sleeping out-of-doors, the barber's chair, and the contented heart. Thus the subjects are often trivial and the treatment is frequently commonplace and flippant, with a noticeable striving after effect, savoring of smart, up-to-date journalism. The following passages illustrate this vice of style and this triviality of tone :—

“Just where by all accounts I ought to be sauntering without heed to time, studying the lovely texts which Nature has set down in modest type-forms selected from her inexhaustible fonts,—in the minion of ripening berries, in the nonpareil of crawling insect life, the agate of tendril and filament, and the 12-point diamond of the dust,—there I stride along and see little” (p. 182).

“I remember a barber—he was the only one available in a small town—who cut my left ear. The deed distressed him, and he told me a story. It was a pretty little cut, he said—filling it with alum—and reminded him of another gentleman whose left ear he had nipped in identically the same place. He had done his best with alum and apology, as he was now doing. Two months later the gentleman came in again. ‘And by golly!’ said the barber, with a kind of wonder at his own cleverness, ‘if I didn’t nip him again in just the same place’” (p. 247).

In the preface the editor (of the *Atlantic* as well as of this collection of essays) tells us that in answer to appeals from teachers in high school and college he has made this careful selection from his file so as to constitute "a kind of Atlantic Anthology, preserving the magazine's flavor and character and offering, as as it were, a sample of what it aims to be." Then follows in this same preface a bouquet of acknowledgments and of compliments to the various contributors for their "delightful," "agreeable," "inimitable" essays.

Twenty-five years ago, among the literary and critical journals of our country, the *Atlantic* occupied a position of unquestioned preëminence. To-day, with an eye to large circulation, in response to what it believes to be popular demand, the magazine has sacrificed much of its former prestige and lost a large part of its distinctive flavor and charm. And the change has been observed with the deepest concern and the keenest regret by its older readers and ancient admirers. The change is all the more serious, too, in view of the fact that in school and college the pressure is increasingly great to substitute the present-day magazine and daily newspaper in place of the true classics. Experiencing difficulty in arousing the interest of the modern college boy in Macaulay, Carlyle, Ruskin, and other great prose writers, many teachers throughout the country are yielding to this demand and have introduced into the classroom the *Outlook*, the *Literary Digest*, the *Atlantic*, and other magazines, to the great satisfaction of the circulation managers, but with what resultant gain in thought and expression on the part of the student remains to be seen. If the editor seeks to set his magazine up as a model of style for young and inexperienced readers, the burden of responsibility rests heavy upon him. Certainly the *Atlantic* editor in this volume of "classics" has not aimed very high, nor has he chosen his samples very wisely.

---

THE OLD TESTAMENT IN THE LIGHT OF TO-DAY. By William Frederick Badé. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. \$1.75 net.

From having been exalted for ages to the place of a fetish in public and private life, and having served as a code of daily